

Office of Local and Rural Health Earn National Award of Merit

The National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) has awarded the 2004 Award of Merit to KDHE's Chris Tilden, interim director of the Office of Local and Rural Health (OLRH).

A NOSORH Award of Merit is presented to a state office of rural health for outstanding contributions to the rural health movement. The basis for the award was Tilden's role in the development of the "Rural and Frontier EMS Agenda for the Future," published in 2004 by the National Rural Health Association. NOSORH, the National Association of state EMS Directors, and the National Rural Health Association, with support from the Health Resources and Services Administration in the Department of Health and Human Services, and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in the Department of Transportation collaborated on the agenda.

Tilden is a co-chair of the NOSORH Rural EMS Taskforce, and in 2004 he represented NOSORH on the project steering committee. As a member of this committee, he served in an editorial role to the project writer. He also was responsible for bringing together all major national EMS and rural health agencies, an array of associations, and other rural health and EMS leaders for a day-long review conference in March 2004 to provide input into the final draft of the "Rural and Frontier EMS Agenda for the Future." The Kansas Board of EMS was also represented on the national steering committee for this project.

The document demonstrates that rural and community-based EMS must play a key part in the rural health care delivery system and outlines a policy approach and agenda at the local, state, and federal level to achieve the vision of an integrated health care delivery system with EMS as a primary component.

The "Rural and Frontier EMS Agenda for the Future" can be ordered online or downloaded at: <http://www.nrharural.org/EMSagenda/index.html>.